



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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May 4, 2006
PR -036

Trailfest Features Numerous Hikes For Purists

Trailfest, the Fairfax County Park Authority's celebration marking the official opening of the Cross County Trail (CCT) is set for Saturday, May 6, 2006 rain or shine! With more than 120 events at locations along the 40-mile trail, participants will find a wide array of activities to enjoy. However, some folks will take comfort in knowing that just plain hiking along this picturesque pathway is being offered as well.

For stalwart souls, a 38-mile through-hike will begin at the crack of dawn near Difficult Run Stream Valley Park in Great Falls. The Fifth Annual Cross County Trail Hike is for serious hikers only. This north-to-south one-way hike along the stream banks and through the woods of Fairfax County will start at first light to allow hikers to complete the hike before sunset. Thru-hikers will arrive at the Laurel Hill Club House in Laurel Hill just prior to the shooting of fireworks and ribbon cutting ceremonies slated for approximately 7:30 p.m. For information about this hike call Cliff Noyes at 540-373-8267.

For those who enjoy hiking and want a less ambitious itinerary there are other options to consider.

Trailfest will also feature an out-and-back hike of a six mile section of the CCT on the northern portion, with an optional 1.4 mile round-trip jaunt along Difficult Run. The hike will be preceded by ribbon cutting ceremonies at 7 a.m. at the stream valley park on Georgetown Pike.

A late afternoon hike will also take place. This is a moderately paced, out-and-back, and hill-less hike of about nine miles on southern section of CCT. The hike begins at Fairfax--South County Secondary School parking lot and will continue down to Occoquan Regional Park with pauses en route at historic Laurel Hill house. Bring water and sufficient posthike munchies, and expect mostly shadeless trail.

For more information about these two hikes including start-time and meeting place go online at www.mrop.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailfest.htm. For more information contact the Sierra Club at 703-256-6351 or contact Park Authority Trails Coordinator Jenny Pate at 703-324-8726.

Media members wishing to participate in these hikes are asked to contact Public Information Officer Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.